



Let Courtship Reign You'll Banish Hardship

by *Count Marco*

My Aunt the Contessa says, "There is no such thing as a bad man; nor is there such a thing as a good woman. Women are good only because it's to their advantage to be good."

This is particularly true during courtship. You're so good, so sweet, so attentive, so promising because you're working for advantages like an engagement ring with the guarantees that follow.

And you get them all. Why? Because you were good.

But, alas, as Rosalind proclaims in "As You Like It," "Maids are May when they are maids, but the sky changes when they are wives."

You shatter his rose-tinted glasses and show him your real side. Poor beast.

Is it any wonder so many take to the woods or Skid Rows to hide out forever?

When courtship is over, your false front is proved to have been just that, and you begin to act out the American wife role with a vengeance.

You remind me of the fabled grasshopper who went hopping through her short existence singing merrily, "The world owes me a living," only to discover that in the end she was left out in the cold, like you.

I personally think far too many of you American women like to be mistreated. Else why do you perform so badly?

From today on, try to act good even if the effort seems to be too much at first. The rewards are always so much higher.

Each of you who is now married has only to think back to the days of your courtship. Can you remember what you did, what you said and how you dressed?

If you can, then try to recreate that same illusion. Try being good once again. Think of all those advantages you received when you last were.

No beast is so far gone in disgust that he won't awaken to your new ways.

At first, don't blame him for being suspicious, even critical and caustic. But as the days wear into weeks he'll begin to like the idea of courtship revival.

Face it, my dears; courtship is not just something you use for a few weeks. It's a marriage-long job. You did it once, you can do it again.

Start your soul-searching tonight. List all the things you did when you were hot on his trail. Put them back into practice.

You'll always be attractive in his presence, your tongue will trip with sweet compliments. You'll flatter, you'll smile, even laugh in his presence. You'll plan again your future together.

It's never too late to make your marriage a courtship instead of a hardship.

Try it and see for yourself that what my aunt the Contessa claims is true: "It's to your advantage, not his, to be good."

Now for goodness' sake be good.

(Distributed by Chronicle Features.)

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